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**BOUNDARY MANAGEMENT DECISION MADE FOR  
MONTEREY BAY AND GULF OF THE FARALLONES SANCTUARIES**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) announced today a new administrative management arrangement for the northern portion of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. NOAA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The NMSP will establish a Northern Management Area extending from the San Mateo/Santa Cruz line northward to the existing boundary between the Monterey Bay and Gulf of the Farallones sanctuaries. The current boundaries of the two sanctuaries will not be changed. The Gulf of the Farallones sanctuary will assume full administrative and management responsibilities of the Northern Management Area in March 2004.

Since Monterey Bay Sanctuary's designation in 1992, the northern portion of the sanctuary has been under co-management with the Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuary. The NMSP decided to resolve the co-management issue during the current process to revise both sanctuaries management plans. Regulations governing the area under the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary designation will not change.

"We found a solution that puts community interests foremost in the protection of these vital natural resources," said Richard W. Spinrad, Ph.D., NOAA National Ocean Service assistant administrator. "This solution is the result of an open public process and rigorous data collection and analysis. We considered input from all aspects of the community to reach this solution."

Existing Monterey Bay sanctuary regulations and congressional prohibitions will continue to apply in the Northern Management Area. In addition, the Monterey Bay sanctuary will continue to manage its Water Quality Protection Program in San Mateo County.

Daniel J. Basta, director of the NMSP said, the northern portion of the community has for years felt geographically aligned with the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. This new structure seeks to enhance effective sanctuary management by keeping the community closer to the sanctuary staff.

The NMSP is committing additional funding and staff to both sanctuaries to support existing and new science, education, and management programs in the area. Both sanctuary advisory council charters will be modified to require an annual joint council meeting directed at coordinating and integrating activities in the Northern Management Area, as well as across both sanctuaries. In addition, a transition team of sanctuary staff and advisory council members will be established to integrate planning efforts in the Northern Management Area.

“This solution gives one sanctuary the decision making authority, brings both advisory councils together, and aligns the sanctuary management to encourage more community involvement, ” said Basta. “This decision was made to maximize community participation and ownership in sanctuary management.”

NOAA’s National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) seeks to increase the public awareness of America’s maritime heritage by conducting scientific research, monitoring, exploration and educational programs. Today, the sanctuary program manages 13 national marine sanctuaries and one coral reef ecosystem reserve that encompass more than 150,000 square miles of America’s ocean and Great Lakes natural and cultural resources.

NOAA’s National Ocean Service manages the NMSP and is dedicated to exploring, understanding, conserving and restoring the nation’s coasts and oceans. The National Ocean Service balances environmental protection with economic prosperity in fulfilling its mission of promoting safe navigation, supporting coastal communities, sustaining coastal habitats and mitigating coastal hazards.

The Commerce Department’s NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation’s coastal and marine resources.

On the Web:

NOAA - <http://www.noaa.gov>

National Ocean Service - <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov>

National Marine Sanctuary Program - <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>

Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuary - <http://farallones.noaa.gov>

Monterey Bay Sanctuary - <http://montereybay.noaa.gov>

Northern Management Area - [http://sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan/cc\\_bndy.html](http://sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan/cc_bndy.html)